

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE SERVICE OF MICHAEL T. PTASIENSKI TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 26, 2021

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Michael T. Ptasienski, the fifth Inspector General of the House of Representatives, who is departing the House after 13 years of service.

Mr. Ptasienski was appointed the 5th Inspector General of the U.S. House of Representatives on February 15, 2018. Prior to his appointment, Michael served as the Deputy Inspector General for Advisory and Administrative Services and, upon joining the House in 2008, the Director of the Management Advisory Services. Born, raised, and educated in the State of Illinois, Michael spent over 15 years working in consulting and management roles in the financial services industry prior to joining the House.

Mr. Ptasienski brought great skill, knowledge, and a cooperative, pragmatic leadership style to the Office of Inspector General. Under Michael's leadership and his focus to help improve the operations of the House, the Inspector General's Office worked closely and effectively with other House offices to identify risks, highlight areas for potential improvement, and develop reasonable and sensible recommendations for the benefit of the House.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank Mr. Ptasienski for his dedicated service to the House, and I urge my colleagues to join me in offering warmest wishes for success in his life's endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE PUERTO RICAN BAR ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 26, 2021

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Puerto Rican Bar Association of New York (PRBA) on the occasion of its 64th Annual Scholarship Fund, Inc. gala.

Founded in 1957, PRBA was created to connect lawyers and judges who shared common goals, ideas and concerns relating to the practice of law, the courts, and the community. PRBA has successfully mentored and helped generations of attorneys develop their careers in line with their core mission of empowering and giving back to the Puerto Rican and Latino communities.

With the Puerto Rican Bar Association Scholarship Fund, the Association promotes opportunities for educational and professional advancement for underserved young professionals. Throughout its storied 60-year history, PRBA has benefited from the leadership of

fantastic board members and presidents. This year's PRBA President, Steven M. Cordero is an esteemed attorney and recipient of the Sanctuary for Families 2016 Above & Beyond Pro Bono Award. PRBA's members have ascended to the highest levels of the legal community within private practice, non-profit and all levels of government including the U.S. Supreme Court by Justice Sonia Sotomayor.

Madam Speaker, please join me in saluting this year's extraordinary honorees: Judge George J. Silver, Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for the New York City Courts, Judiciary Excellence Award; Juan Cartagena, Esq., outgoing President and General Counsel of LatinoJustice PRLDEF, for Public Service Award; Christopher L. Garcia, Esq., Partner, Co-Chair of Global White Collar Defense, Regulatory and Investigations Practice and Co-Chair Diversity Committee at Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP, for Attorney of the Year Award; and Judge Ruben A. Martino, posthumously, Supervising Judge of Bronx Family Court, for Champion of Justice Award, presented to Joyce Martino.

CELEBRATING 80 YEARS OF MILLER'S BAR

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 26, 2021

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Miller's Bar located in Dearborn, Michigan, as they celebrate over 80 years of service to our community. Their decades spent as a Dearborn legend are worthy of commendation.

Established 1941 by the George Miller and his family, the current owners Dennis and Mark Miller give credit to Russell Miller who "made it what it is." There's always a Miller around the restaurant, which is open six days a week. This old-school Dearborn establishment with the red booths is a local gem, one that requires that customers abide by the honor system when paying for their meals and accepts only cash. Though the honor system may be a relic of days past, their reliance on honesty and the trust they've built with their customers is a testament to their status as a treasured Dearborn mainstay. For years they've served generations of hungry workers and families.

The restaurant is famous throughout southeast Michigan and is a popular gathering spot for nearby Ford Motor Company employees, known for their iconic made-to-order ground round burgers served on wax paper. Their burger was named one of the top 25 in the country by Food & Wine Magazine in 2012 and named one of the Best Burger Places in America by Thrillist in 2018. Among other fans include acclaimed food writers from GQ, MLive, Click on Detroit, the Wall Street Journal, Pure Michigan, The Michigan Journal, Detroit's Hour Magazine, and even Oprah.

Miller's Bar is nothing short of a Dearborn icon. A family operation to this day, they have grilled for thousands. A place for friends to get together, families to share a meal, and to catch up on the neighborhood news—we have been lucky to have them here at home for the past eight decades.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in celebrating Miller's Bar. Please join me in congratulating them on eight fantastic decades of business. We thank the Miller family for their commitment to serving our neighbors for the past 80 years. We wish them the best of luck as this Dearborn mainstay goes up for sale and new owners take over and continue the great tradition that the Miller family started long ago.

HOMETOWN HERO—DIVYESH PATEL

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 26, 2021

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Divyesh K. Patel, an entrepreneur from Irving, Texas who was recently awarded the Presidential E-Star Award and E-Award for Excellence.

Mr. Patel and Bespoke Group LLC are recognized for their outstanding contribution to the U.S. economy, growers, and work on the "From U.S. Farms to World Market Program."

Mr. Patel hails from a distinguished family with a great track record of contributing in many areas. His father, Kanchanbhai M. Patel, has been awarded the Glory of Gujarat, India award which demonstrates their deep commitment to the community in making a great difference from the individual to national level.

Mr. Patel also had a great impact on small businesses and agricultural farming. Both strengthen our economy, create valuable jobs, and provide for communities across the nation.

I thank Mr. Patel for his entrepreneurial spirit and contributions to international trade in Texas—24. We are grateful for the impact he has made on our community.

IN RECOGNITION OF REASTER EVERETT

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 26, 2021

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding contributions of Ms. Reaster Everett, a long-time resident of Westland in Michigan's 13th Congressional District as we mourn her passing.

Ms. Everett was best known in the community for her volunteer work. As coordinator for the Wayne County Retired Senior Volunteer

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Program (RSVP), she recruited, trained, and assigned volunteers to designated sites. She also served as Family Service Advocate for the Wayne County Family Center, facilitating, and expediting adaption to independent living arrangements for residents and aided with placement and health care services. Ms. Everett spearheaded the "No Family Without Christmas" program, collecting donations for the homeless during the winter holiday season.

Prior to that work, Ms. Everett served in many other roles in the community, including as a representative on the Community Development Commission and as a Wayne County community liaison to prevent and assist homeowners facing mortgage foreclosures. Through her work with the Southeast Westland Homeowners Association (SWHA), Ms. Everett founded the SWHA Community Center, where for many years, she operated an after-school program for young people. She was an active member of the St. James United Methodist Church, where she served as chairperson of the Outreach Committee and on the Pastor Parish Relations Committee.

Please join me in recognizing the many contributions of Ms. Reasther Everett to Westland, Wayne County, and 13th District Strong, as we give honor to her memory.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. JULIA
NESHEIWAT

HON. MICHAEL WALTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 26, 2021

Mr. WALTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service and career of combat veteran and public servant Dr. Julia Nesheiwat, who has devoted her entire life in service to this country and by every metric, exemplifies duty, honor, and the American Dream.

Born to Ben and Hayat Nesheiwat, Jordanian immigrant parents who worked tirelessly to provide for her and her four siblings, Dr. Nesheiwat graduated from Stetson University. She then went on to earn her M.A. in security studies from Georgetown University, Washington D.C. and a Ph.D. from the Tokyo Institute of Technology in Japan. Dr. Nesheiwat is a lifelong member of the Council on Foreign Relations and served on the Governing Advisory Council for the World Economic Forum.

After the September 11 attacks, Dr. Nesheiwat was immediately deployed in the U.S. Army military intelligence corps. She served multiple tours in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom in Afghanistan and Iraq for which she was awarded the Bronze Star Medal. Dr. Nesheiwat subsequently was selected to serve on the U.S. Presidential Commission on Intelligence Capabilities Regarding Weapons of Mass Destruction, leading the North Korea and Iran policy steering committee.

She went on to help establish the newly formed office of the Director of National Intelligence as the Chief of Staff for policy and planning, where she managed the integration and collaboration of analysis and reporting with all intelligence agencies.

During her time at the Department of State, Dr. Nesheiwat served as the first Deputy As-

sistant Secretary for Energy where she built a new bureau that addressed the nexus of energy, climate, technology, development, international programs, and public-private partnerships. She then collaborated with the Department of Defense to create a new curriculum on energy security as a visiting professor at the Naval Post Graduate School.

Dr. Nesheiwat continued her call to service as the first U.S. Deputy Presidential Envoy for Hostage Affairs focused on the release of U.S. citizens legally detained or held hostage abroad. Dr. Nesheiwat's diplomatic work was instrumental in the release of dozens of Americans illegally held overseas as well as her work with the families of those detained.

Returning to her home state of Florida, Dr. Nesheiwat was appointed by Governor Ron DeSantis to serve as Florida's first Chief Resilience Officer, a cabinet-level position tasked with preparing Florida for the environmental, physical, and economic impacts of sea level rise.

In 2020, Dr. Nesheiwat once again answered the call to serve, this time in the White House as Deputy Assistant to the President for Homeland Security and Resilience. At such a perilous time in our nation's history, she brought her extensive expertise on national security and resilience to develop strategies to help protect America against the COVID pandemic, natural disasters, critical infrastructure protection, foreign election interference, civil unrest, counter-narcotics, and wildlife and trafficking crimes.

Dr. Nesheiwat was later appointed to serve a four-year term as a Commissioner on the U.S. Arctic Research Commission. The Commission is an independent federal agency that advises the President and Congress on domestic and international Arctic research. She is also a Distinguished Fellow with the Atlantic Council with the Global Energy Center.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the lifelong servant leadership of Dr. Julia Nesheiwat and her career spanning the Bush, Obama, Trump, and Biden Administrations. She has brought great credit to her country and we thank her as she continues to serve the American people.

RECOGNIZING JOE EDMONSON AND
FAMILY

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 26, 2021

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate Mr. Joe Edmonson who has been named Mississippi's Farmer of the Year by the Sunbelt Agriculture expo. I am proud to have him representing our state.

Joe has been a motivated and passionate farmer for his entire life. At the age of fifteen, he purchased his first forty acres of land. Both Joe and his wife Melissa grew up in farming families and have dedicated their lives to Topshaw farms. Melissa is a full partner in the farms and is an essential figure in the Vardaman Sweet Potato Festival. Their daughter, Brandi also works in the business side of the farm. Her husband, Shaun manages the packing warehouse line. Son Trent oversees planting and harvesting, and his wife

is a nurse who aids in minor medical incidents around the farm. Son Cody manages sweet potato planting and grain harvesting and his wife Lindsey works in the packing warehouse offices and manages H2A work.

The farm has endured multiple natural disasters that affected their crop and livestock. The Edmonson family has taken these hardships as opportunities to expand and built an impressive packing facility. They have taken into stride changes in agriculture technology and continue to evolve with the modern world. Joe and his family contribute to their surrounding community through the Boy Scouts, Vardaman FFA, Calhoun County 4-H and the state Farm Bureau.

Family is at the core of Mr. Edmonson's farming career. Joe, Melissa, Brandi, Trent and Cody have been a pillar of the Vardaman community and have made incredible contributions to Calhoun County. I am grateful for their lifetime of service and commend him for his outstanding work in agriculture.

HONORING THE CAREER OF JOSIE
BACALLAO

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 26, 2021

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to recognize the tremendous career and meaningful work of Josie Bacallao, President & CEO of Hispanic Unity of Florida.

Founded 39 years ago as a haven for immigrants and refugees, Hispanic Unity of Florida has grown to serve diverse and multi-cultural working families from the United States as well as more than 25 other countries.

Under Ms. Bacallao's leadership, the agency provides a range of wrap-around services to help more than 16,000 clients of all ages, from preschoolers to adults, successfully transition to a productive new life.

Hispanic Unity of Florida acts as South Florida's "Ellis Island" for new immigrants arriving in South Florida. Often arriving with little more than the clothes on their backs, a few dollars in pocket change, with no job, language, skills or understanding of the life that awaits them on America's shores—they still come with hopes and dreams.

And Josie works tirelessly to guarantee everyone is empowered to live their American Dream.

Her commitment to strengthening the physical and financial health and wellness of Florida's families is extensive, impressive, and inspiring.

Josie Bacallao is a selfless, compassionate, and thoughtful citizen whose commitment to our community is exemplary, and I am proud to call her my dear friend. I wish her a hearty congratulations on her retirement and am grateful for her invaluable work to improve the lives of those in Florida's 23rd Congressional District and beyond.

TRIBUTE TO OLYMPIC WRESTLER
DAVID TAYLOR

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 26, 2021

Mr. JORDAN. Madam Speaker, I am proud to recognize David Taylor for his outstanding wrestling performance at the Tokyo Olympic Games.

At the age of 8, David wrote down three goals: Win four high school state titles, win four college national championships, and win Olympic gold. Even at this young age, he had his mind set on objectives that would take countless hours of practice and dedication to accomplish.

David wasted no time on his mission, amassing an impressive 180–2 high school record, including four state championships, and graduated with a 4.0 grade point average from my alma mater, Graham High School in St. Paris, Ohio. He would then go on to become one of the most decorated wrestlers in Penn State University's history: Four Big Ten championships, a four-time finalist and two-time NCAA National Champion, and twice the winner of the Dan Hodge Trophy, given to the undisputed best college wrestler in the nation.

He then fixed his eyes on his final objective: Winning Olympic gold. With 17 seconds remaining in the gold medal match in Tokyo, Taylor scored a two-point takedown to give him his 52nd straight victory in international matches. David said afterward: "You've got to want it. You've got to want to be here."

David married the love of his life, Kendra, five years ago. Last month, on September 16, they welcomed baby Ivy into the world. David's parents, Dave and Kathy, currently reside in Chattanooga.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the people of Ohio's Fourth Congressional District, I am honored to celebrate David's accomplishments, his dedication to the sport of wrestling, his integrity and work ethic, and his outstanding contributions to the Olympic tradition. We wish him all the best in the future.

RECOGNIZING MISS KAYLYNN
GONZALES

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 26, 2021

Mr. VALADAO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Miss Kaylynn Gonzales for her beautification of Valley Animal Haven in Lemoore, California.

Miss Gonzales is a Girl Scout Cadette from Hanford, California. This year, she led a team in beautifying Valley Animal Haven, a local pet adoption center. For this project, Miss Gonzales taught herself to paint and draw. Together, her team created and painted wooden cartoon animals for the facility's meet and greet pens. She also restored aging tables, chairs, and benches in the visitor's areas and installed new bark mulch in the meet and greet area. Miss Gonzales raised money to fund this project by selling cookies and collecting donations.

Miss Gonzales selected this project because she is committed to raising awareness for re-

sponsible pet ownership and the importance of adopting from local shelters. In beautifying Valley Animal Haven, Miss Gonzales hopes to encourage more adoptions from the shelter. Her work is greatly appreciated by the Valley Animal Haven community and those who share her honorable mission.

In recognition of her efforts, Miss Gonzales was awarded the Girl Scout Silver Award by the Girl Scouts of the USA, Central California South Council, Troop 3049. This is the highest honor a Girl Scout can receive at the Cadette level.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Miss Kaylynn Gonzales on this important achievement and recognizing her service to her community.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT
OF OFFICER ROBIN W. BLOSS

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 26, 2021

Mr. PERRY. Madam Speaker, I am privileged and humbled to recognize Officer Robin W. Bloss upon the occasion of his retirement from the Penbrook Borough Police Force after more than thirty years of service.

Officer Bloss began his journey as a Paxtang Borough Police Officer upon completion of Officer Training at the PA State Police Training Center in Hershey. Despite his recent introduction to the Force, he managed to remain employed full-time as a maintenance electrician with the Ames Companies Inc., while working 20-hour weeks with the Department.

Officer Bloss later transitioned to the Penbrook Borough Police Department, serving as a Bike Patrol Officer and the Borough Business Contact for maintaining emergency notification information. Throughout his many years with the Department, he received a litany of awards for his service, to include: Medal of Valor; Certificate of Merit; and multiple Lifesaving Awards.

In the Fall of 2003, Officer Bloss received the Medal of Valor when he and Officer Swank saved an infant's life during a violent domestic dispute on Boas Street. His Certificate of Merit was earned as he was on duty when shots were fired at Capitol Police. He earned his three Lifesaving Awards for CPR performed throughout his decades of service.

Officer Bloss loved serving the community and was proud to wear the uniform, which he did with dignity and integrity. As proud as he was of his work in law enforcement, his three sons were his priority and focus of his greatest pride. He was blessed to serve simultaneously with two of his sons—one as Swatara Township K9 Police Officer, and one as a Dauphin County Dispatcher.

Throughout his work as a patrol and bike patrol officer, he served with distinction, working the job and community events that frequently took him away from his family and myriad holidays and special events. Despite his retirement, however, Officer Bloss will remain in service to citizens of the Borough of Paxtang as its EMA Coordinator.

I commend Officer Robin Bloss upon the auspicious occasion of his hard-earned retire-

ment and lifelong commitment. For his tireless, selfless, and loyal service to our community, Commonwealth, and Nation, I wish him Godspeed on his next adventures.

RECOGNIZING PATRICK LAVIN ON
HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE
INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD
OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS
(IBEW) LOCAL NO. 47

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 26, 2021

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, today I want to recognize Mr. Patrick Lavin, who has retired after serving seven terms as Business Manager and Financial Secretary of International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local No. 47 in Diamond Bar, California. I thank Pat for his years of friendship and counsel and congratulate him on his retirement following his 55-year career at IBEW, during which he was one of the most effective and longest-serving members of the IBEW International Executive Council (IEC), among many other roles.

A journeyman lineman by trade, Pat joined IBEW Local 9 outside Chicago as a summer helper before his sophomore year in high school and came on the job full time in 1968. In 1969, Pat interrupted his IBEW career and volunteered to serve his country in the U.S. Marine Corps during the height of the Vietnam War.

Over his lengthy career, Pat was a lineman for four different utilities. He worked for Southern California Edison (SCE) as a lineman, service crew foreman, and heavy crew foreman in Redondo Beach, Huntington Beach, and Santa Ana.

Pat has said that he saw many different changes in the electrical industry over the course of his career, and that the need for the services of electrical workers has grown immensely over the past twenty years. In his decades on the job, Pat also weathered numerous challenges including recessions and periods of anti-union rhetoric. In his own words: "As a groundman, an apprentice and a lineman, I have helped keep the lights on since 1969."

In addition to seven terms as Business Manager and Financial Secretary of IBEW Local No. 47, Pat served five terms as the IBEW 7th District International Executive Council member. He was chosen as Secretary of the Council by the IEC in June 2003. During his many years in the field, Pat has worked for numerous IBEW signatory contractors and four utilities out of various local unions around the United States. When Pat took over Local 47 in 1999 it was a 4,500-member utility. Today, it serves 14,000 members in nearly 200 classifications over a nearly 80,000 square mile jurisdiction from the Pacific to Arizona and from Mexico to just south of Lake Tahoe.

Pat was also chairman & treasurer of the Coalition of California Utility Employees (CCUE), a board member of California Unions for Reliable Energy (CURE), an executive board member of the California State Association of Electrical Workers (CSAEW), and a member of the board of directors of California

Foundation on the Environment and the Economy (CFEE). He was a member of the Pacific Council on International Policy and served as chair of the IBEW No. 47 Retiree Medical Trust Fund, along with being a trustee of the Cal-Nevada IBEW/NECA JATC Board.

As a member of the IBEW International Executive Council, Pat was a trustee on the IBEW Pension Benefit Fund and all funds of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. In addition to those duties, he served on the National Employee Benefit Board (NEBB), which is the board of directors for the National Electric Benefit Fund (NEFB), National Electric Annuity Plan (NEAP), and the National Electric 401 K (NEFP). In June 2017, Pat was nominated California Veteran of the Year by the California State Assembly.

Pat holds a Bachelor's Degree in Organizational Management from Southern California College. He was married to his wife, Ellen, for 45 years prior to her passing in 2019 and recently married his current wife, Dianne. Pat has two daughters, two sons, and eleven grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and thanking Mr. Patrick Lavin for his many years of outstanding service to electrical workers in Southern California and nationwide and for his exemplary leadership "keeping the lights on."

HONORING JENNIFER REDMOND AS IOWAN OF THE WEEK

HON. CYNTHIA AXNE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 26, 2021

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Jennifer Redmond, the state executive director of Nebraska and Iowa for Susan G. Komen. Their mission is to save lives by meeting the most critical needs of their communities and investing in breakthrough research to prevent and cure breast cancer.

Susan G. Komen has invested in more than \$1.1 billion collectively in lifesaving breast cancer research since 1982. More than 1,200 Iowans seek help and information from Susan G. Komen every week, and all 99 counties in Iowa are served by Susan G. Komen breast cancer services.

All Iowans can get involved with Susan G. Komen through events and activities organized throughout the state, by becoming an individual advocate or by registering their workplace for volunteer programs, fundraising campaigns, and access to world-class breast cancer content. There are currently 1,786 people in Iowa who advocate for breast cancer rights with Susan G. Komen.

Jennifer and the team at Susan G. Komen also ensure everyone has access to quality screening, diagnosis, and treatment for breast cancer. Anyone who reaches out, no matter where they are in their breast cancer journey is welcome at Susan G. Komen.

Jennifer and her staff spend every day supporting organizations that provide vital services and research to Iowans and it is my pleasure to honor Jennifer Redmond as Iowan of the Week.

RECOGNIZING THE REDEDICATION OF THE TOWN OF TONAWANDA POLICE HEADQUARTERS AS THE "FRANK H. PFONNER PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING"

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 26, 2021

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the rededication of the Town of Tonawanda Police Headquarters as the "Frank H. Pfonner Public Safety Building," in honor of Police Officer Frank H. Pfonner. Officer Pfonner, the only Town of Tonawanda Police Officer to have been killed in the line of duty.

Frank was born in June of 1893 to George and Elisabeth Pfonner. He was raised on the Pfonner family farm, located where Military Road meets Knoche Road today. The path that once connected the house to the barns has become Ensminger Road in Tonawanda.

Frank was one of the first officers hired by the Town of Tonawanda Police Department. He became Constable for the Town, and during his years of service risked his life to protect those in Tonawanda on many occasions. In one instance, he incurred a gunshot wound to the head, but later returned to duty.

Frank would be killed in a hit-and-run incident while on his motorcycle, ending his watch over the Town of Tonawanda on April 8, 1923.

Frank had no children, but his commitment to service lived on through his family. His brother, Elmer G. Pfonner, would serve in the First World War. Upon his return, Elmer served as a Constable much like Frank. However, Elmer resigned when his parents became distraught at the thought of losing another son.

Elmer went on to have five children, who would have been Frank's nieces and nephews. Two of Frank's nephew served in the Korean War, and the youngest of the nephews would go on to have four children. As a symbol of the legacy of Officer Pfonner, the youngest of the children was named Frank H. Pfonner, after his great uncle.

Town of Tonawanda Supervisor Joseph Emminger, the Town Board, and Police Chief James Stauffiger are to be commended for remembering the life and legacy of Officer Pfonner through rededication of the Town of Tonawanda Police Headquarters in his honor.

This tribute will serve as a lasting reminder of the great sacrifices made by Officer Frank H. Pfonner and all police past and present who risk their own lives to serve our communities.

HONORING THE INSTALLATION OF
LAMONT REPOLLET AS PRESIDENT OF KEAN UNIVERSITY

HON. ALBIO SIRE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 26, 2021

Mr. SIRE. Madam Speaker, today, I recognize and congratulate Lamont Repollet's installation as the 18th leader of Kean University. He has been a dear friend for many years, and I believe he is an excellent choice

to take on the role of President of Kean University.

Lamont Repollet has demonstrated a lifelong commitment to educating students in New Jersey. He started as a teacher and coach in an urban area, an experience we share and one that has informed his entire career. As a principal and then superintendent, he implemented many initiatives including those focused on closing the opportunity gap, increasing graduation rates, and creating new leadership and literacy programs.

He brought his dedication to equity and opportunity to the state level as Commissioner of Education and applied everything he learned in his prior roles toward improving our education system. He did this while tackling the immense challenge of restructuring student learning during the COVID-19 pandemic. Lamont Repollet has broken barriers as the first Black principal of Carteret High School, the first Black Commissioner of Education of the State of New Jersey, and now, the first Black president of Kean University, where he has deep ties. As an alumnus and former member of the Board of Trustees, he has knowledge of, and a commitment to, the students, faculty, and community.

Madam Speaker, I know that he will work hard to create new opportunities for students while creating an environment in which everyone can flourish. It is my great honor to recognize this milestone for Lamont Repollet and Kean University and I know that there are great things ahead.

IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 2119, THE
FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION
AND SERVICES IMPROVEMENT
ACT OF 2021

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 26, 2021

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, today, I voted in favor of H.R. 2119, the Family Violence Prevention and Services Improvement Act. It is important for our Nation to address the scourge of domestic violence, which affects far too many residents of our country, and I am disappointed that the legislation before the House today could not be written, and ultimately passed, on a bipartisan basis. Domestic violence transcend politics and does not discriminate based on political preference.

There are provisions in this legislation that are important to constituencies I represent. My home state of Oklahoma is home to some of the largest Tribal populations. I am pleased that H.R. 2119 provides increased resources to Tribal nations to fully respond to domestic violence in their communities. Specifically, H.R. 2119 increases the tribal set-aside for grant funding from 10 percent to 12.5 percent. This increased set-aside will improve technical assistance to Tribes, development of domestic violence prevention strategies, and implementation of community responses to reduce risk factors for family violence. Moreover, the implementation of a new emergency hotline dedicated to serving Indians affected by domestic violence will significantly benefit the Native American population.

Yet I also recognize that the bill voted on today has some very real problems. I have

concerns with several key provisions, which is why it is my hope that if the Senate passes its own version of this legislation, these troubled provisions could be eliminated in a conference between both chambers. If not, then I reserve the right to vote no on any vote on final passage.

RECOMMENDING THAT THE HOUSE
FIND STEPHEN K. BANNON IN
CONTEMPT OF CONGRESS

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID N. CICILLINE

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 21, 2021

Mr. CICILLINE. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of holding Steve Bannon in contempt of Congress for refusing to answer a Congressional subpoena and in support of truth, transparency, and the rule of law.

January 6 was one of the most heinous attacks on American democracy that our country has ever seen. We have mountains of evidence that these rioters, encouraged by and organized by some of our country's highest officials, intended to overthrow our democracy at the behest of Donald Trump.

We must get to the bottom of what happened, not only to hold these insurrectionists accountable, but to prevent something like this from ever happening again.

Steve Bannon clearly had inside knowledge of what was going to happen that day. He even said on January 5 that "all hell was going to break loose" on January 6. He has information that must be shared.

The January 6 commission is a bipartisan effort to get the truth.

This goes beyond party politics—this is about the safety and security of our democracy.

I urge all my colleagues to join me in voting to hold Steve Bannon in contempt for his refusal to comply with the Committee's subpoena. Vote for yes.

REMEMBERING MIMI LEVIN
LIEBER

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 26, 2021

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of my good friend Mimi Levin Lieber, a beloved public servant and leader in early childhood education.

Mimi devoted her life to her mission of making literacy a right of all children, a passion that led her to launch Literacy Inc. (LINC), an organization in my district dedicated to providing children with a strong foundation of literacy early in life. Through her organization, Mimi was able to touch the lives of so many New Yorkers by taking an innovative community-based approach to learning that addressed the systemic inequalities in our education system.

Mimi believed that through reading, everything becomes possible. This conviction served her well while attending the University of Chicago for her Bachelor's and Master of

Arts Degrees and, later, training in London to become a pioneer in qualitative research. After completing a fellowship at Harvard's Graduate School for Education, she met her husband for life, Charles Lieber. Charles was a well-traveled, multi-lingual native of the Netherlands who fled the Nazi occupation of Belgium in 1940. Forty years later, he would go on to acquire the Hebrew Publishing Company, the oldest American publisher of Judaica.

After moving to New York in 1960, she and Charles raised four children on the Upper West Side. Mimi cherished being a mother and believed raising children was one of the most important, yet undervalued, roles in life. Mimi grew up in a cohesive Jewish community in Detroit, but she quickly became a true New Yorker who looked out for everyone in her community. She served on the synagogue board, Hebrew school board, the Jewish Board of Guardians, and Community Planning Board 7. While doing all this, Mimi, a trained sociologist, also founded Lieber Attitude Research which became one of the first firms to employ focus groups to help companies understand client thinking.

This public service and her sociology background led me to nominate her to the New York State Board of Regents, where she served New York students for 15 years. While on the board, she successfully lobbied politicians around the state to make critical investments necessary to turn young children in the five boroughs into learners for life. During her service, she became a breast cancer survivor and spoke openly about her illness when many would not. Mimi never viewed public service as a sacrifice; she believed in the power of community and viewed the ability to serve others as a privilege. One of her sons, Janno Lieber, continued her tradition of public service and currently serves as Acting Chair and CEO of New York's MTA. In her later years, she spent much of her time at her family's countryside retreat in Spencertown, New York and continued to serve on the board of LINC.

Her legacy reminds us that we must support and invest in our children's education from the earliest years, when it matters the most, and that universal literacy is critical to sustaining a healthy democracy. Mimi will truly be missed, and she has left her imprint on the thousands of readers she inspired through her advocacy. Mimi is survived by her children, grandchildren, and members of her LINC family. May her memory be a blessing.

NATIONAL SPINA BIFIDA
AWARENESS MONTH

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 26, 2021

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize October as National Spina Bifida Awareness Month, and to pay tribute to the numerous individuals and their families across our country living with this condition.

Spina Bifida is the nation's most common, permanently disabling, birth defect compatible with life. According to the March of Dimes, about 1,645 babies are born with this condition in the United States each year, with its

prevalence being highest in the Hispanic population. Known as a neural tube defect, Spina Bifida stems from a hole in the spinal cord that occurs when the spinal column fails to close properly during development in the womb. As a result, this condition impacts virtually every major organ system in the body. Children born with Spina Bifida typically undergo dozens of surgeries before they become adults. Adults living with Spina Bifida face a myriad of physical and mental health conditions, as well as other challenges, such as unemployment and limited access to quality primary and specialty care.

Over the last three decades we have made significant strides in preventing this birth defect and managing the care of those born with this condition. In response to research showing the incidence of Spina Bifida could be reduced by up to 70 percent with the addition of folic acid in a woman's diet, the United States Public Health Service recommended that all women of childbearing years should take 400 micrograms of folic acid daily to prevent having a pregnancy affected by a neural tube defect. Based on this recommendation, I introduced the Folic Acid Promotion and Birth Defects Prevention Act, which was passed into law as part of the Children's Health Act of 2000. This Act authorized a program within CDC to provide professional and public education for folic acid awareness.

In 1998, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration required that folic acid be added to enriched grain products such as bread, pasta, rice, and cereal to increase the likelihood that women would have sufficient folic acid in their diet before becoming pregnant. And in 2016, after years of advocacy with the FDA and the corn masa industry, folic acid fortification of corn masa flour was finally begun to target Hispanic communities that consume more corn masa products than grains. But there is still much work to be done to ensure adequate consumption of this critical nutrient that can neural tube defects.

There are currently an estimated 166,000 individuals in the United States living with Spina Bifida, approximately 65 of whom are adults. This disease is now witnessing its first generation of adults, an incredible milestone, considering that the original designation of Spina Bifida as a childhood condition meant most children born with this condition did not experience life beyond youth. Today, a generation of adults living with Spina Bifida, some of whom are 65 years and older, is an achievement worth celebrating. But unfortunately, there remain many unmet needs and additional health challenges affecting this medically fragile population.

As individuals develop, their clinical needs change, as should the type of care, and often the type of medical professional they see for that care. One challenge is that while we have a coordinated system of care designed to treat children with Spina Bifida in the United States, there is no equivalent for adults. Thus, the "graduating child" enters a very fractured medical system where individuals struggle to find physicians willing to provide treatment. Unfortunately, many of these physicians lack basic knowledge of this complex condition, and thousands of young to middle-aged adults are left with few options other than to seek care in the emergency room—or continue to see their pediatric care team at Spina Bifida Centers, which are designed for children.

In recent years, the Spina Bifida community has seen a growing incidence of sudden death in its over 25 population. There is speculation this sudden loss of life has something to do with the central nervous system, but the cause or causes remain unknown. As such, we must explore and understand this sudden death phenomenon so we can reverse this troubling trend. Moreover, we must support—and expand investment in—research to address other issues related to Spina Bifida and associated secondary and co-morbid conditions, such as hydrocephalus, latex allergy, neurogenic bladder and bowel problems, developmental delay, and impaired executive functioning.

The CDC's National Spina Bifida Program is the sole federal program tasked with improving the care and outcomes for people with Spina Bifida. In 2008, the Spina Bifida Program created a National Spina Bifida Patient Registry (NSBPR) to collect the scientific data needed to evaluate existing medical services for Spina Bifida patients, and to provide clinicians, researchers, patients, and families a "window" into what care models are effective and what treatments are not making a measurable difference. Building on this in 2014, the Spina Bifida Program funded the development of a Spina Bifida Collaborative Care Network (SBCCN) to identify and disseminate "best practices" for the care of people with Spina Bifida at all ages. These programs continue to improve quality-of-life and outcomes for people with this birth defect, but their full potential has been constrained due to flat federal funding over the last six years. Additional funding could expand the number of clinics participating in the registry and increase the amount of information reported, which will provide further insights into how to continue improving care and outcomes for people with Spina Bifida.

People with Spina Bifida deserve no less than the rest of us as we age. During a lifetime, someone with Spina Bifida will face at least a \$1,000,000 in medical expenses, including multiple surgeries, and most can expect to spend much of their lives in a wheel-

chair or walking with braces. We must ensure that adults with Spina Bifida can receive evidence-based medical care tailored for their condition and receive that care in age-appropriate, non-emergency settings. I call upon my Congressional colleagues to prioritize increased funding for the CDC Spina Bifida Program to ensure that it will be poised to best guide the health care community in optimal treatment options for people living with Spina Bifida.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LIFE
AND MEMORY OF MR. PAUL
WRABEC

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 26, 2021

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to celebrate the life and legacy of a dear friend, an ambitious leader, and a dedicated public servant: Paul Wrabec. Paul, who passed away on October 20th, never faltered from advocating for the causes he was deeply passionate about, and his advocacy undoubtedly made Jackson County a better place to call home. As a beloved and active member of the Greater Kansas City community, he created change and inspired future generations of policy makers to lead with a sense of conviction. Paul will be missed dearly, and his life is well worth remembering.

A lifelong resident of Sugar Creek, Missouri, Paul comes from a proud Croatian and Slavic family that immigrated to the United States in the early 1900s. Growing up in this thriving immigrant community, Paul was taught the values of equality, union rights, and environmental stewardship. Throughout his life, Paul remained committed to those values as he led a fulfilling career as a civil servant.

A graduate of St. Mary High School and Rockhurst University, Wrabec retired from environmental remediation work in 2005. Oper-

ating the Kansas City, Sugar Creek, and Independence License offices with his son, Cyril, Paul ensured that disabled and elderly members of the community had access to much needed services. But his impact as an empathetic community member didn't stop there.

Paul also served on the Sugar Creek Board of Aldermen, and then was first elected to the Jackson County Democratic Party committee in 1978 and was its longest-serving chairperson in nearly 100 years. He was known throughout Jackson County for being able to "run circles" around others in fundraising and for constantly raising the bar for successful local campaigns. Always emphasizing the importance of voting, Paul worked tirelessly to rally communities throughout Independence and Sugar Creek ahead of critical elections.

While Paul certainly wore his political beliefs on his sleeve as a loyal Democrat, he was a steadfast believer in building relationships with those across the aisle. Indeed, he found ways to make peace with people from all walks of life, and his gentle demeanor and contagious smile always made him a joy to be around. There is no doubt that he established a connection with every individual he came across.

Looking beyond his extraordinary work as a public official, Paul was a heartfelt family man who enjoyed hunting and fishing at the Lake of the Ozarks with his family. Making time for his loved ones was always his first priority. Paul's storytelling of family history and generous nature will be missed, but all those who have met him will still have felt his impact for the rest of their lives.

Many still remember times when Paul picked up hitchhikers, gave money to the homeless, and happily lent a helping hand to anyone needing anything.

Madam Speaker, please join me in remembering the inspiring, impactful life of Paul Wrabec. Please also join me in offering condolences to his family and all those mourning his loss. Let us seek to emulate his example in the work we do here by preserving Paul's story of public service and human empathy.